UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24687
20 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 19 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit for circulation the text of the statement by His Excellency Sir Ketumile Masire, President of the Republic of Botswana, at the signing of the Mozambique Peace Accord on 4 October 1992 in Rome.

The Permanent Representative of Botswana would be grateful if the statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Statement by His Excellency Sir Ketumile Masire, President of the Republic of Botswana, at the signing of the Mozambique Peace Accord, Rome, 4 October 1992

The signing of this Peace Accord marks an important milestone not only for the people of Mozambique, but also for the people of southern Africa. It brings with it an opportunity for the people of Mozambique to taste the fruits of their independence and to direct their energies to national reconstruction and economic development. We feel honoured and privileged to bear witness to this historic occasion.

As we leave Rome to our respective destinations, we are fully conscious that the appendage of a signature alone does not and cannot bring about peace. Peace can only come about if there is mutual goodwill to sustain it. I would like to take this opportunity, therefore to underscore the gravity of this undertaking, which we have witnessed today. It is a commitment to peace, a responsibility to save lives in our region and a promise to work together as brothers and sisters in Mozambique. Let no man or woman look back to the past, let us look forward to work for national reconciliation and reconstruction in Mozambique. If there is any reason to look back, let it be for the sake of drawing lessons, to learn from past experience never to commit the same mistakes again. I urge the people of Mozambique to forge ahead with that which is good for their country and its people.

As the people of Mozambique turn a new leaf in their history, it is the responsibility of the international community to come to their help. The primary responsibility of the international community is the promotion of peace and security. We all have a community of interest to ensure that peace and development are achieved in Mozambique. All should make a contribution in this effort.

In conclusion, I would like to commend all those who have made it possible for peace in Mozambique to come about. I wish to congratulate the people of Mozambique on the successful conclusion of their two years of peace negotiations. The political will on both sides to negotiate has been the key in the whole process. I also wish to commend the Government and the people of Italy who have offered their country and its facilities for the negotiation process. I thank the mediators for the role they played in facilitating the countless meetings between the chief negotiators in the peace process. There are also countless heroes and heroines who will forever remain nameless and faceless who have contributed in their different ways in the whole process. I thank them just as well. Above all, I wish to assure the people of Mozambique that we are all with them; we shall do everything possible to help them in their effort to promote peace and development in their country.